



# Fall Creek Falls Activities August 26<sup>th</sup> - September 3<sup>rd</sup>

Welcome to Fall Creek Falls State Park! Summer vacation time is here and what a great place to spend it! The park provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some hiking, picnicking, boating, swimming, and wildlife watching while taking in the beautiful scenery. We encourage you to take advantage of the programs we have arranged for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

**\*A parent or guardian must accompany youngsters 12 years old and younger.**

**\*Some craft programs may be limited to 30 participants due to limited supplies and space. First come, first serve.**

Stuart Carroll – Interpretive Specialist III  
Matt Brown – Park Ranger II  
David Vogt – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger

Jon Morris – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger  
Ross Robinson – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger  
Brittany McClure – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger

## **Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30am      **Devotional** – Randy Garrell will be hosting an interdenominational devotional at the Campground A Pavilion.
- 9:00am      **Hike to the Base of Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a 3-mile roundtrip hike to the bottom of Fall Creek Falls, the park's namesake. This is a moderately strenuous hike which you will view the area's varying forests and geology and learn a little about the park's history. Bring along plenty of water and wear sturdy shoes.
- 10:30am     **Bear Call Craft** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall and learn some facts about the black bears that have been sighted in the park in recent years and make a bear call from recycled material.
- 1:00pm      **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 1:15pm      **Butterfly Plant Stakes** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make a colorful butterfly to decorate your potted plant or flower arrangement.
- 1:30pm      **Snake Venom** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a discussion about the types of venom found in snakes around the world and how it affects the body.

- 2:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 2:45pm **Map and Compass Basics** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn the basics of using a compass and map.
- 3:00pm **Edible and Useful Tree and Plant Walk** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to take a casual walk around the Village area and learn how the trees and plants of the park have been used by Native Americans, pioneers, and modern people.
- 3:30pm **Piney Falls Ramble** – Meet Jon at the Piney Falls parking area for a short hike to view Piney Falls and the suspension bridge over Piney Creek. We will also learn about some of the park's history.

### **Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30am **Gilbert Gaul Hike** – Meet Ross at the Youth Camp 2 gate for a hike along the Gilbert Gaul Trail. This lakeside hike is a great place to view waterfowl, birds, beaver activity, and much, much more. Bring plenty of water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Tick repellent is advised for this hike.
- 10:30am **Dogwood Refrigerator Magnets** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about dogwoods. Then, we will make a floral refrigerator magnet using natural materials.
- 1:15pm **Dragonfly Plant Stakes** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about this diminutive and beautiful predator. Then, we will make a plant stake replica for your potted plants.
- 3:00pm **Skull ID** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn what our local critters have in their heads.

### **Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00am **Early Morning Hike to Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Jon at the lobby of the Inn for a moderate 4-mile, round-trip hike on a paved trail to the top of Fall Creek Falls. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with some of our park's native plants and animals and learn about the park's history.
- 11:30am **Fishing 101** – Do you want to catch more large fish? Come meet Jon at the Nature Center to learn some tips about fishing. Learn to tie some fishing knots. Also come see some lures that will help you catch more fish.

### **Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00am **Cable Trail Hike** – Join Ross at the Nature Center for a short but strenuous hike down the Cable Trail to the bottom of Cane Creek Falls. This is a great opportunity to experience the grandeur of one of our park's most prominent geological features. Wear sturdy shoes and bring along some water.
- 10:30am **Dragonfly Plant Stakes** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about this diminutive and beautiful predator. Then, we will make a plant stake replica for your potted plants.
- 10:45am **Paddle Boat Race** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock and take the helm of a paddle boat for a competitive race around the lake. You may rent your paddle boat at the boat dock; first-come, first-serve.
- 2:30pm **Wheeler Farm Excursion** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Wheeler Farm to view some spectacular geologic features. Please provide your own transportation. Carpooling is recommended. This will be a moderately strenuous 2-mile roundtrip hike to a natural bridge and shallow but beautiful waterfall. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring along some water.
- 2:45pm **Make a Lightweight Camp Stove** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make an alcohol stove using recycled materials. We request that children under 12 years old do not attempt this program due to sharp edges and difficult procedures.

- 3:00pm **Snake Show** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to get up close and personal with some of the park's more elusive residents.
- 4:00pm **Edible and Useful Tree and Plant Walk** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to take a casual walk around the Village area and learn how the trees and plants of the park have been used by Native Americans, pioneers, and modern people.
- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.
- 7:30pm **Campfire** – Meet Jon at the George Hole to learn about fire building, park history, native wildlife, and more! Be sure to bring your roasting sticks and marshmallows. You may want to bring along a flashlight to help you across the bridge.

### **Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

- 9:30am **Hike to Cane Creek Falls Overlook** – Meet Brittany at the Nature Center for a walk to the Cane Creek Falls Overlook on the Paw Paw Trail. We will discuss various trees and plants along the way and highlight the area's geology at the overlook.
- 9:45am **Backpacking Basics** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn what type of equipment to carry when backpacking and how to load your pack.
- 10:30am **Azalea Blossom Refrigerator Magnet Craft** – Did you know that Fall Creek Falls State Park has 3 species of Azalea shrubs which produce spectacular white, orange or pink blossoms? Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make a refrigerator magnet from natural material that replicates these spring beauties.
- 11:00am **Hemlock Hike** – Meet Brittany at the Nature Center to hike along the Gorge Trail. Along the way, we will talk about the wooly adelgid threat and the importance of the hemlocks to forest ecology.
- 11:15am **Map and Compass Basics** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn the basics of using a compass and map.
- 1:15pm **Snake ID and Natural History Slideshow** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn to recognize many of the species of snakes in the park and learn about their fascinating natural history.
- 1:30pm **Creek Walk** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a cool nature hike up the middle of Cane Creek. Be sure to wear clothes and shoes that you can get wet.
- 2:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 2:15pm **Horseshoes** – Meet Brittany by the basketball court in the Village for a fun and exciting game of horseshoes.
- 3:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 3:15pm **Park History Slideshow** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about the park's history and other valuable information about our park.
- 3:30pm **Fish of Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to learn some interesting facts about the freshwater fish in the area.

- 6:00pm **Local Spiders** – Meet Ranger Matt at the lobby of the Inn to learn about our native spiders' habits, identifying features, role in nature, and more! There will be a short, rolling slide presentation to watch from 6:00pm to 7:00pm and possibly some live specimens to observe and discuss. Stop by anytime during the hour.
- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.
- 8:00pm **Evening Nature Ramble** – Meet Ranger Matt at the Campers' Check-In for a nature walk around the golf course. This is the peak time to see some of the park's nightlife like deer, raccoons, frogs, etc. If it's clear, we may look at a star or two as well.

## **Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 9:00am **Rock Hop** – Meet Ranger Matt at the Nature Center for a technical and strenuous off trail hike through Cane Creek Gorge. Along the way, we will see both Fall Creek Falls and Cane Creek Falls. Be prepared to navigate steep slopes, large boulders, and slippery surfaces. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water in your day pack. We do not recommend attempting this trip unguided due to the possibility of getting lost! The minimum age is 12 years, and persons with physical infirmities should not attend. This hike may take 2-4 hours.
- 9:30am **Canoe Race** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a canoe race on the lake. You may rent your canoe at the boat dock; first-come, first-serve.
- 9:45am **Paw Paw Trail** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a moderate hike along the Paw Paw Trail. This will be a good time to view some trees, birds, and other interesting sights. Bring along plenty of water.
- 10:30am **The Lorax** – Hey kids join us at the Nature Center to watch this classic 30 minute cartoon version of Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*. This timeless story teaches the importance of conservation to children of all ages.
- 10:45am **Hummingbird Mobiles** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn some fun facts about our smallest bird species, the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. Then stick around to make a moving hummingbird sculpture using natural materials. This program may be difficult for children under 7 years old.
- 11:00am **Plant/Tree ID Walk** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to go on a short walk around the area. Along the way, we will discuss plant and tree identification techniques, as well as their role in nature and with man.
- 1:15pm **Aluminum Foil Canoe Float** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall and build your own aluminum foil boat. Once it is completed, we will race it down the rapids of the Village stream to compete for a prize.
- 1:30pm **Snake Show** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to get up close and personal with some of the park's more elusive residents.
- 1:45pm **Hike to the Base of Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a 3-mile roundtrip hike to the bottom of Fall Creek Falls, the park's namesake. This is a moderately strenuous hike which you will view the area's varying forests and geology and learn a little about the park's history. Bring along plenty of water and wear sturdy shoes.
- 2:00pm **Tie-Dye** – Meet Brittany at the Rec. Hall to brighten up your wardrobe! Bring your own or buy a t-shirt at the Rec. Hall for \$5 to support the Friends of Fall Creek Falls.
- 3:15pm **Native American Skills** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to discuss the tools, weapons, and lifestyles of the ancient peoples of Tennessee.
- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.



# Foxfire



7:30pm

**Live Musical Entertainment** - Meet at the Amphitheater by the pool for an evening filled with musical entertainment provided by Foxfire. Admission is \$3; kids 6 and under are free. In the event of rain, meet at the Rec. Hall.

## Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 8:30am **Devotional** – Randy Garrell will be hosting an interdenominational devotional at the Campground A Pavilion.
- 9:00am **Canoe Float** – Meet Ross at the Boat Dock to explore Fall Creek Lake. You may rent your canoe at the boat dock; first-come, first-serve.
- 10:00am **Moths and Butterflies** – Meet Brittany at the Nature Center to learn about these beautiful insects as well as identification of species common to the area.
- 10:45am **Bear Call Craft** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall and learn some facts about the black bears that have been sighted in the park in recent years and make a bear call from recycled material.
- 12:00pm **Wildlife Jeopardy** – Meet Brittany at the Nature Center to test your wildlife knowledge.
- 1:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 1:15pm **Butterfly Plant Stakes** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to make a colorful butterfly to decorate your potted plant or flower arrangement.
- 1:30pm **Backcountry First-Aid** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn some basic wound management and other first-aid skills for the backcountry.
- 2:00pm **Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Jon at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 2:15pm **Hike to Fall Creek Falls Overlook** – Meet Brittany at the Nature Center for a moderate 2-mile roundtrip hike to Fall Creek Falls. We will discuss various rocks, plants, and animals along the way.
- 3:00pm **Introduction to Tennessee Owls** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall for a short presentation on the 8 species of owls known to Tennessee. Stay and dissect owl pellets to discover what these fascinating birds eat.
- 3:15pm **Creek Critters** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to explore the park's underwater environment. Be sure to wear shoes that you can get wet.
- 3:45pm **Fire Tower Tour** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Fire Tower. Please provide your own transportation. Carpooling is recommended.
- 6:30pm **Softball** – Meet at the lighted field in the Village. Kids (12 years old and younger) play the first hour. Teens and Adults (13 years old and older) play at 7:30pm. Please wear adequate footwear.

## Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 9:30am **Snake Venom** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center for a discussion about the types of venom found in snakes around the world and how it affects the body.

- 10:30am **Dogwood Refrigerator Magnets** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about dogwoods. Then, we will make a floral refrigerator magnet using natural materials.
- 1:15pm **Knot Tying** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn some knot tying skills.
- 1:30pm **Dragonfly Plant Stakes** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn about this diminutive and beautiful predator. Then, we will make a plant stake replica for your potted plants.
- 3:00pm **Wild Encounters** – Meet Ross at the Nature Center to learn how to avoid potentially dangerous wildlife and what to do in the event an encounter.
- 3:30pm **Skull ID** – Meet David at the Rec. Hall to learn what our local critters have in their heads.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the EEO/AA Coordinator at 1-888-867-7455 or the ADA Coordinator at 1-866-253-5827 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service 1-800-848-0298.



### *Cool Culture Fact*

***Do you know that the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Mountaineer Folk Festival is September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>? This is a great opportunity to learn the historic ways of plateau and Appalachian peoples through demonstrations of a sorghum mill, broom making, and many other traditional crafts.***

***Cultural history is one of the many topics discussed in the Fall Creek Falls 2½-day or 5-day Environmental Education Program for school groups. For more information, contact the Nature Center (423) 881-5708.***